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ning of the twelfth century there ceases to be any question of the nature of the relationship, and the argument for that age is clearly demonstrative. For the two earlier centuries the evidence is rather of a probable character, and what M. Lot calls the *a priori* argument is of more importance than he seems inclined to admit. Some parts of this could have been developed more at length with advantage, as for example the consideration that there is no point between the beginning of the tenth century and the middle of the thirteenth when it would have been possible for a weak Capetian king to have transformed the supposed loose tie of mere fealty into liege homage, and that any attempt to do it would have left indelible traces in the records of the age. Much depends on the argument to show that during this age fealty and vassalage were practically identical, or, as M. Lot expresses it, that fealty was not conceived of as a weaker bond than vassalage. This also could with profit have been given in greater detail. The argument is, however, convincing and conclusive as it stands. Although the book was written before the appearance of M. Flach's third volume, it is a valuable corrective of the peculiar teachings of that work.

GEORGE B. ADAMS.

Chronicon Adæ de Usk, A. D. 1377-1421. Edited with a translation and notes by SIR EDWARD MAUNDE THOMPSON, K.C.B. Second edition. (London: Royal Society of Literature; New York: Henry Frowde. 1904. Pp. xxxviii, 346.)

THE present work is an amplification of a previous edition (1876) by the same editor, which closed with 1404. The discovery of the missing part, in a manuscript of the Duke of Rutland's collection at Belvoir Castle, is one of the many services of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, and its identification is due to Sir Henry Maxwell-Lyte. The new edition entirely replaces the old. It has more complete notes and a better and more extensive preface, and is, on the whole, a scholarly production.

Adam of Usk's *Chronicle* is important as a personal record of events in which the author, who was a prominent figure in his day, participated, rather than as a historical record of the times. Born at Usk in Monmouthshire about 1352, he attained a high record at Oxford. He took the degree of doctor of laws, was *extraordinarius* in canon law, and held a chair in civil law until 1392. From then until 1399 he practised in the episcopal courts of Canterbury, under patronage of Archbishop Arundel, as whose follower he joined Henry of Lancaster at Bristol in his successful attempt on the throne. Adam's mediation saved his native town from pillage, and his friend, the Lord of Powis, from the wrath of Henry. He was one of the commission of bishops, lords, and doctors appointed to draw up the charges upon which Richard II was deposed. Consequently, his chronicle abounds in interesting events of these years, beginning with the Parliament of 1397, at which he was present. His

confirmation of two of the most charming anecdotes of Richard's deposition renders them worthy of credence. He was one of the few present at the lonely meal in which the king wept over his fickle and contentious realm, and he gives us a version of the story of Richard's greyhound more remarkable than the one generally known from Froissart.

Mention should here be made of an event in Adam's career of great psychological interest and characteristically medieval. It had not been hitherto known why, in February, 1402, he departed suddenly for Rome; but from a patent-roll of 4 Henry IV, Mr. Wylie has given us the real reason. On November 2, 1400, the erudite doctor of laws, accompanied by two retainers, one of them a near relative, took to the road near Westminster, and robbed a certain Walter Jakes of a black horse, with saddle and bridle, valued at one hundred shillings, and also of fourteen marks in cash; this notwithstanding the fact that he was the holder of important benefices, perhaps in line for a bishopric, and stood in high favor with the king, who submitted important legal questions to him (pp. 48-54). His chronicle reveals the soul of a genuinely pious although superstitious man, whose actions seem generous and disinterested.

At Rome he was favorably received and was speedily appointed to the important post of chaplain and auditor to Boniface IX, maintaining the same position after the accession of his friend Innocent VII. Important English and Welsh benefices were conferred upon him, and he was even intended for the bishoprics of Hereford and St. David's, the appointment being in each case prevented by the allegations of his enemies and by Henry IV's opposition. His description of papal customs and contemporary events at Rome forms an important part of the *Chronicle*. But disgusted with his misfortunes consequent upon the expulsion of Innocent VII from Rome in 1405, Adam resolved to return to England. For two years he waited in vain for the king's pardon, whilst engaged in legal practice in northern France and in Flanders. About the end of 1408 he crossed over to Wales and swore allegiance to Owen Glendower, through whom he reached his friend Lord Powis. He was finally pardoned in 1411, and died, in prosperous circumstances, in 1430. To his association with Glendower and also to Adam's own nationality we owe his valuable description of the protracted struggle of the Welsh for independence.

GEORGE KRIEHN.

L'Organisation du Travail à Bruxelles au XV^e Siècle. Par G. DES MAREZ. [Extrait du Tome LXV des *Mémoires Couronnés et autres Mémoires* publiés par l'Académie Royale de Belgique.] (Brussels: Henri Lamertin. 1904. Pp. xii, 520.)

DES MAREZ, a pupil of Pirenne, has been for some years favorably known for his work in Belgian economic history. His *Étude sur la Propriété Foncière dans les Villes du Moyen-Âge*, which in 1898 first brought him into notice, though in title and manner rather too pretentious, contained valuable material for the history of property and institutions in